

***Avicennia marina* - Grey Mangrove**

Family:

Acanthaceae (prev. Avicenniaceae)

Distribution:

Coastal New South Wales along estuarine environments. In HSC; Community W (321.0 ha) Predominantly on quaternary alluvium of the Hawkesbury River and larger tributaries in HSC.

Common Name:

Grey Mangrove.

Derivation of Name:

***Avicennia*:** Avicenna, 10th century Arabian philosopher and physician who meditated beside water, ***marina*:** Latin. mare - sea

Conservation Status:

Mangrove swamps are classified as a locally significant community in HSC area.



Description:

Small tree to 6m+ high; bark is smooth & grey in colour. Leaves are arranged opposite and are hairy on the reverse side, having special glands for releasing excess salt. Yellow/orange bisexual flowers appear in late summer through early autumn in small dense clusters. Fruit are dispersed from the parent tree by tidal water movement. Pneumatophores (air breathing roots) supply oxygen to the root system.

Longevity:

Over 100 years.

Horticultural Merit and uses:

Not generally cultivated for horticultural purposes. Timber was highly sought after in colonial days for its addition to burnt oyster shells in the making of lime for mortar.

Fauna Value:

Highly important for aquatic fauna through provision of habitat during nursery stage of many species. Flowers visited by nectar feeding birds and various inadvertent pollinating invertebrates.





